

**MINUTES**  
**YORK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

Work Session  
York Hall Board Meeting Room  
April 25, 2001  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS**

Spencer W. Semmes, Chair  
Andrew A. Simasek, Vice Chair  
Robert E. Beil, Jr.  
Robert D. Heavner  
Michael H. Hendricks  
Thomas G. Shepperd  
Ann F. White

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Spencer Semmes called the work session to order at 7:00 p.m. All of the members were present except Mr. Heavner. Staff members present were James E. Barnett, Jr., J. Mark Carter, Timothy C. Cross, AICP, Michael S. King, AICP, Olivia D. Wilkinson, Joseph A. Sisler, P. E., and Anna Drake.

**INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Tim Cross explained that the purpose of the work session is to review a series of proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the amendments are needed to achieve consistency with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and Regulations. He distributed copies of an undated draft report entitled, Charting the Course for the Chesapeake Bay, which contains the proposed amendments and three detailed technical reports prepared by Ms. Drake. He briefly reviewed the history of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the York County Comprehensive Plan, Charting the Course to 2010, adopted in 1991 and amended in 1999 with the adoption of Charting the Course to 2015. He added that the County has a deadline of June 30, 2001 to adopt an amended Plan that fully complies with the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Mr. Cross introduced Mr. Joe Sisler and Ms. Anna Drake of the York County Department of Environmental and Development Services. Mr. Sisler gave a slide presentation detailing the major elements of Ms. Drake's reports addressing shoreline and streambank erosion, wetlands, protection of potable water, regulation of surface and ground water, and public and private access to waterfront areas.

**DISCUSSION**

Areas of discussion included:

- The County plan to add two public restrooms and a pumping station in place of parking space at the Rodgers A. Smith boat ramp in the Tabb area.
- The State goal to increase by 30% the number of community piers to provide more waterfront access to citizens. Community piers generate more citizen complaints about noise and debris than private piers do.

- Protecting ground and surface water as a higher state priority than regulating piers.
- Inclusion of language (Community Facilities, Parks and Recreation, 12.2) to "develop a master plan [for New Quarter Park] that is harmonious with the goals and objectives of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act."
- Education of homeowners' associations about their role in the maintenance of their stormwater retention and detention ponds.

Mr. Barnett offered to find out what, if anything, the County could do to regulate piers.

Mr. Cross noted that a public hearing for this application would be conducted on May 9, 2001. The discussion turned to public notification of the hearing and how to clearly describe the proposed revisions. Mr. Semmes recommended utilizing the Planning Division web site in addition to the usual newspaper notices and Channel 46. Mr. Semmes thought that, because it is a complex issue, staff should limit its introductory remarks on May 9 to a concise explanation of the changes with emphasis on the requirement to bring the Comprehensive Plan into full compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Act.

The discussion then turned to the lack of a source of public water within the County. Mr. Sisler explained that because there is nowhere in the County for a public reservoir, denial by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers of the King William Reservoir permit would have a great impact on the County. Mr. Cross referred to a previously-distributed draft letter from the Commission to the Corps of Engineers to support Newport News Waterworks' application for the King William Reservoir as a long-term water source for the area's projected population growth. Mr. Shepperd questioned the necessity for the Commission to register its support. Others suggested that, because the County was a member of the Regional Raw Water Study Group since 1987 that led Newport News Waterworks to apply for a permit and the County is a customer of Newport News Waterworks as its provider of public water, the County should support the application.

Mr. Hendricks moved approval for the letter to be signed by Chair Semmes. Mr. Shepperd moved to table Mr. Hendricks' motion until May 9.

The motion to table was defeated by a vote of one yes (Shepperd) and five noes. The motion to approve the letter passed unanimously (6:0, Mr. Heavner absent).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Carter distributed a memorandum, the subject of which was Application No. ZT-56-01, Marinas, for review before the work session May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He said a special public hearing is scheduled June 6th for this application in order to meet the timetable for forwarding a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

**SUBMITTED:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis P. Liscum, Secretary

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Spencer W. Semmes, Chair

**DATE:** May 9, 2001